(b) whether Government also announced at that time that the price hike will not come into force with immediate effect and would be enforced only after the amendment of Drug Price Control Order;

(c) whether it has come to Government's notice that several drug manufacturers have increased the price without the DPCO; and

(d) if so, what action has been contemplated by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The existing Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 continues to operate till a new Drug (Prices Control) Order is issued incorporating the new measures announced by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Power Ministers' Conference

1470. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the State Power Ministers was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed therein and conclusions arrived at;

(c) whether a package of measures was announced by the Union Power Department for tackling the problems of State Electricity Boards; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The agenda items of the Conference included a review of the power programme (1986-87), rationalisation of power tariffs, conservation of energy and reduction in transmission and distribution losses. The main conclusions arrived at the Conference related to measures to improve power generation and plant load factor of thermal stations by expeditious implementation of the renovation and modernisation programme, reduction in transmission and distribution losses by adoption of technical as well as administrative measures, timely supply of equipments to power projects, improvement in the quality and quantity of coal supplied to thermal stations, and measures to strengthen the State Electricity Boards.

Sale of assets of Union Carbide

1471. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Carbide Corporation has decided to sell its headquarters building at Danbury (New York) and the land attached to it when the litigation in the Bhopal gas case is pending against the Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) When, *inter alia*, the reported sale of its headquarters building at Danbury (New York) came to the notice of Government, an application was filed in the court of District Judge, Bhopal to restrain Union Carbide Corporation from disposing off its assets. The court directed Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) to maintain unencumbered assets of a fair market value of $ 3 billion to meet the decree, if any that may be passed by the court.